

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed July 7, 2009 the Office noted that claims 1 and 3-30 were pending and rejected claims 1 and 3-30. No claim has been amended, no claims have been cancelled, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1 and 3-30 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Office's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-18 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nagano, U.S. Patent No. 5,288,278 in view of Dupoyet, U.S. Patent No. 4,265,134. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument.

Nagano discusses having link plates connected to be oscillatable relative to one another within a predetermined range of flexion.

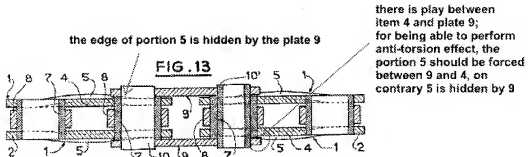
Dupoyet discusses a chain comprised of pivotally interconnected outer links and inner links.

On page 4 of the Office Action, it is acknowledged that Nagano does not disclose "wherein the anti-rotation elements (12) comprise spacers (13a, 13b) interpositioned between the external plates (4, 5) of each external link (2) and the internal plates (7, 8) of each internal link (3) at the respective ends thereof,

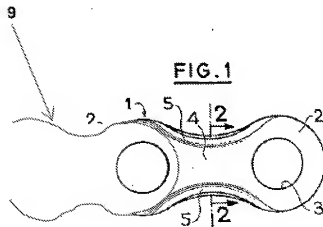
the spacers (13a, 13b) always being in contact with the internal plates (7,8) and always reducing a possibility of torsional rotation between each pair of external links (2) and internal links (3) about a longitudinal alignment axis (Y) of the pair which is perpendicular to a corresponding main rotation axis (X) thereof," as in claim 1, but asserted that Dupoyet, Figs. 1 and 13, does. (Emphasis added)

However, in Dupoyet, no reference is given in any way to an anti-torsion feature of the chain. At col. 4, lines 42-47, it is said that the plates 1 are interconnected in known manner, and that the chain is formed by inner links interconnected by conventional outer links, so the chain of Dupoyet is basically a conventional chain. The deformed portions 5 to which the Office makes reference have the function of facilitating the entrance of the teeth of the sprockets on the chain (see col. 4, lines 35-41). No reference is made to any anti-torsion effect.

Furthermore, in fig. 13 of Dupoyet it is clearly depicted that the deformed portions 5 does not contact with the external links. Fig. 13 is a sectional view of the chain. The outer edges of the portions 5 do not contact with the plates 9 of the external links, instead the outer edges of the portions 5 are hidden by plates 9 (See the annotated figure 13 of Dupoyet).



As such, it can be derived that a section plane parallel to the section plane of figure 13 which cuts both the plates 9 and the deformed portions 5 does not exist. What can be derived from figure 13 is something like the chain depicted in figure 16 of Dupoyet, where there is no contact between the deformed portions 5 of the inner plates 1c and the outer plates 1d (as shown below in the annotated Fig. 1 of Dupoyet).



Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Nagano and Dupoyet, taken separately or in combination, fail to render obvious the features of claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nagano in view of Dupoyet in further view of Wang, U.S. Patent No. 5,322,483.

Wang adds nothing to the deficiencies of Nagano and Dupoyet as applied against the independent claim. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Nagano, Dupoyet and Wang, taken separately or in combination, fail to disclose the features of claims 19-23 and 30.

Claims 24-26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nagano in view of Dupoyet in further view of Pierce, U.S. Patent No. 1,945,357.

Pierce adds nothing to the deficiencies of Nagano and Dupoyet as applied against the independent claim. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Nagano, Dupoyet and Pierce, taken separately or in combination, fail to disclose the features of claims 24-26 and 28.

Claims 27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nagano in view of Dupoyet in view of Pierce in further view of Klaucke, U.S. Patent No. 2,277,915.

Klaucke adds nothing to the deficiencies of Nagano, Dupoyet and Pierce as applied against the independent claim. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Nagano, Dupoyet, Pierce and Klaucke, taken separately or in combination, fail to disclose the features of claims 27 and 29.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is also submitted that claims 1 and 3-30 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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